



Attachment C

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Mining Industry: Commercial operators have an interest in the proposed rules. The proposal calls for setting buffer zones along the water line and along the tree line of the creeks to protect for erosion and for aquatic life. Specifically the operators are concerned about the size of the buffers and the depth of excavation. The buffer area represents mineral commodity that will be left in place. Any restrictions on the removal of mineral will create a need for more sites, with more overhead costs to their customers and more stretches of stream affected.

Local Governments: While local governments are exempt if they use their own equipment and staff, many local governments must rely on contractors to supply their sand and gravel. Contractors working for local governments will be subject to the proposed rules as any other commercial operators. Therefore, the local governments must plan for any additional overhead costs in these cases.

Land Owners: Again, while landowners are exempt if they remove gravel for their own use, many landowners have no use for a large volume of material. Therefore they must also hire contractors to remove gravel from the creeks in those areas where they wish to clean out creeks and restore depth and width to the stream channel. Therefore, the landowners must also plan for any additional overhead costs when they hire the work out to a commercial operator.

Environmental Groups: There are a diverse number of groups such as anglers, stream teams, the Sierra Club, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, and even individual landowners who have expressed concerns about stream damage from mining. Many of the comments have indicated that there should be no mining in Missouri streams.

State Government Agencies: MDNR, MDC, USGS and others want to provide protection for Missouri streams. There is also a recognized need for the sand and gravel mineral commodity that is used widely in rural areas for infrastructure development. The Land Reclamation Commission has asked that we draft rules that will satisfy stream protection while allowing for mineral extraction.